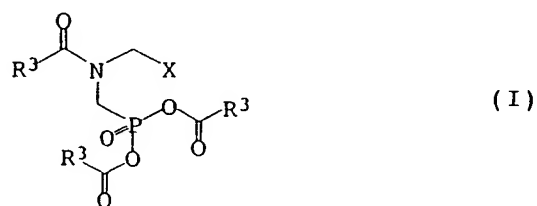


COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION

Claims 1-2 (canceled)

3. (original) A process for the preparation of a phosphono compound of the formula I

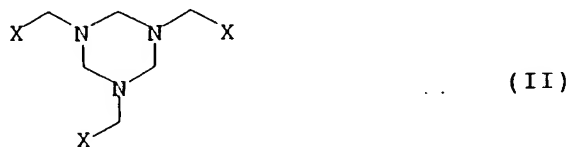


in which the radicals R^3 , which can be identical or different, are C_1 - C_{18} -alkyl or aryl which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, NO_2 or OC_1 - C_4 -alkyl, and X is CN, $COOZ$, $CONR^1R^2$ or CH_2OY ,

Y is H or a radical which is readily exchangeable for H;

Z is H, an alkali metal, alkaline earth metal, C_1 - C_{18} -alkyl or aryl, which is unsubstituted or substituted by C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, NO_2 or OC_1 - C_4 -alkyl;

R^1 and R^2 , which can be identical or different, are H or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, in which a hexahydrotriazine derivative of the formula II



is reacted with a triacyl phosphite of the formula III



in which R^3 and X are as defined above.

Claims 4-25 (canceled).

26. (new) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein X is CN or COOZ.

27. (new) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein R^3 is phenyl which is unsubstituted or substituted by $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$, NO_2 or $\text{OC}_1\text{-C}_4\text{-alkyl}$, or is CH_3 .

28. (new) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein step (a) is carried out in an organic solvent.

29. (new) A process as claimed in claim 26, wherein the solvent used is dioxane or tetrahydrofuran.

30. (new) A process as claimed in claim 26, wherein a chlorinated organic solvent is used.

31. (new) A process as claimed in claim 28, wherein 1,2-dichloroethane is used as solvent.

32. (new) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the compounds of the formulae II and III is employed in essentially equivalent amounts.

33. (new) A process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the compound of formula III is prepared by reacting a carboxylic acid of the formula IV



in which R^3 has the meanings stated in claim 3 or a salt thereof with a phosphorus trihalide.

34. (new) A process as claimed in claim 33, wherein an alkali metal salt or the ammonium salt of the carboxylic acid of the formula IV is reacted with the phosphorus halide.
35. (new) A process as claimed in claim 33, wherein the carboxylic acid of the formula IV is reacted with the phosphorus halide in the presence of an amine.
36. (new) A process as claimed in claim 33, wherein the carboxylic acid of the formula IV is reacted with the phosphorus halide in the absence of a base.
37. (new) A process as claimed in claim 33, wherein the reaction is carried out in an inert organic solvent which is selected from among the aromatic or aliphatic hydrocarbons and chlorinated hydrocarbons.
38. (new) A process as claimed in claim 37, wherein the solvent is recovered after the reaction and recycled.